

Nathaniel Crane House
Cherry Street and Morris Avenue
Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-418

HABS

N.J.

20. Eli

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(DATA PAGES ONLY)

~~PHOTOGRAPHIC~~

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Nathaniel Crane House
Cherry Street and Morris Avenue
Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Moses Crane

Date of Erection: Oldest part of present house about 1787;
two later additions made in middle of
nineteenth century

Architect:

Builder: Nathaniel Crane

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The oldest part of this house, which is the part west of the hall, was built about 1787 by Nathaniel Crane. This part was originally attached to an older house then used as a kitchen and later removed. As near as can be ascertained, the present dining room was built around 1850; the kitchen was built about 1859.

The Crane House has been since its erection the home of the builder and his lineal descendants. Nathaniel

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Crane was one of the sons of Caleb Crane and Elizabeth Townley. Caleb was a great grandson of Stephen Crane one of the first associates of Elizabeth. Nathaniel Crane received the land from his father in 1774 when he was just a young lad. His descendants claim that he enlisted when he was thirteen and served the Revolutionary Army in one capacity to another until the close of the war. His early enlistment may have been prompted by the fact that he was forced to live with his half brother Caleb, Jr. After the war, Nathaniel Crane kept a tavern at Elizabethport and later he kept a tavern in Elizabeth. By trade he was a tailor and he appears to have been at one time a man of means. After his death in 1825, he left the property with the house to his son Moses Miller Crane. When he died in 1874 his will left the house to be used by his son John Williams Crane for his life and then it was to go to his grandson Moses M. Crane whose widow is the present owner.

Bibliography:

Material from Miller Crane Earl and search of Union County records by Frank P. Caufield, Essex County Office

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Supervising Historian

Approved:

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
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